



Interoffice Communication

To : Distribution

From : P. E. Markey

Date : July 30, 1981

Subject : VCM LEAK-SOUTH FRESH FILTER PACK, NEW REACTOR MODULE
1:50 P.M., 7/24/81

Attached are supervisors write-ups of the above incident prepared by Alton Reeves and Bobby Hawkins. I believe the write-ups are fairly complete, but I would like to interject the following observations and comments.

1. The evacuation and corrective measures were carried out very effieciently. Contractors and Maintenance work was shutdown and people were evacuated promptly. The proper steps were followed in putting additional water on the leak and the filter pack was quickly isolated to minimize leakage. Personnel used the proper protective gear entering the area of high VCM concentrations. The area was monitored for VCM using HNU analyzers by operators personnel. This will be reinforced in shift safety meetings.
2. Communications between various plant departments could have been improved by more use of Gaitrontes and PA systems, especially after the leak situation was resolved. Safety meetings will be scheduled to emphasize the importance of plant wide communications in these kinds of situations.
3. In order to minimize any confusion, radio communications during emergency situations should be confined as much as possible to operating personnel and management.
4. At least one contractor (a scrap metal dealer) was apparently unaware of plant safety rules, and drove a diesel down the road just south of the new module immediately after the leak developed. This individual and his company will be contacted to ensure compliance of plant safety rules in the future.
5. The filter pack involved was in service and is believed the failure occurred due to an "O" ring failure. However, the filter pack will be tested for head true-ness by the Aberdeen maintenance group before being placed back in service.

The Aberdeen Process Engineering Department estimated the VCM leakage to approximately 5½ lbs. Although this was a fairly small release vs. a full reactor or vessel release it does give us an opportunity to evaluate our emergency plant and the way we respond to these incidents. Hopefully, the above steps will better prepare our people in the event of a future VCM leak.

P. E. Markey

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c: CLM, CRM, MPB, AHS